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The Secretary
Shan States Ministry
Rangoon

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Sir,

I have the honour to report regarding how Dr. Herczeg, the Shan States Government's Economic Advisor, had been robbed and killed on October 30 at about 1 p.m. at Milestone 29 - 7 furlongs beyond Banyin on Taunggyi-Loikaw Road.

On October 29, Saturday, soon after the meeting with the Secretaries of the Shan States Government, when Dr. Herczeg was asked if he had any program for travelling he replied that he had none and that he had already bought air ticket to Rangoon to return on 31st, Monday.

However on October 30, Sunday, at about 9:30 a.m. Dr. Herczeg and his driver Ko Thein Ngwe came to my house in Taunggyi and said that they were going on some journeys and asked me to bring in lunch cakes and tea. I prepared them quickly and we all left my house in his Landrover at about 10 a.m. When the driver Ko Thein Ngwe asked me where he must drive, I did not know and so asked Dr. Herczeg, who told us to drive to Hopong direction. Dr. Herczeg asked Ko Thein Ngwe to drive slowly.

When we arrived at Hopong, as it was a Hopong Bazaar Day, we stopped and roved in the Bazaar for about 20 minutes. Dr. Herczeg even borrowed 50 pyas from me to buy two combs. When we came out from the Bazaar and got into the car, I asked him again which direction we must take. He waved his arm to Loikaw Road and said "Drive this way".

When we were going along Taunggyi-Loikaw Road slowly from Hopong, we found old pagodas on the right of the road and Dr. Herczeg asked the car to stop and taking him of his camera got down on to the road. I followed him. I told him that it was not safe to enter the area of these pagodas as some poisonous snakes might be lurking there. He said he was about not to be afraid and entered the area of the pagodas. I had to abide by his decision. However, I was afraid of the snakes if ever they should appear. I followed him. He said that he had a lecture and old traditions and customs of the pagodas. When I saw him against not entering into the area again, I relaxed and went on. We

When we were going again, we saw some rockbrick makers on the way and Dr. Herczeg stopped the car and went and viewed their handwork. He also asked the workers about the nature of their work, income etc. and then resumed journey. Between Hopong and Nawnmyn, we saw a girl covered and Dr. Herczeg stopped the car and took a snap of the girl. The car was driven slowly and did not stop till it reached near Pajin Government Garden. It was nearly

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p.m. I asked him if he would enter the Garden and take him. He said that he would enter it only on the return but would proceed on now.

When we reached the Milestone 29 - 7 furlongs, we saw four dacoits.¹ Of the two badhats I saw, one held a gun and another held a dashe (sword). As the remaining two lusoos (Bandits) came to the car from the sideways, I did not remember what kinds of arms they were carrying with them. As their shouts of words ordering the car to stop were not coherent, I did not know what language they had used. However the one dacoit who rushed in pointing the gun at us shouted to the driver in Burmese "Give us money". I and the driver Ko Thein Ngwe gave them money, watches and fountainpens that we got with us.

When the dacoit pointed the gun at Dr. Herczeg and asked him money, the latter replied that he had no money. I sat in the middle of the car and told the dacoits in Burmese that Dr. Herczeg had no money. When they asked for the watch, I interpreted this to Dr. Herczeg in English. However Dr. Herczeg said nothing in reply and remained silent and mute. When the dacoit got enraged and shouted and gestured as if to shoot him if he would not part with his money, Dr. Herczeg tried to open the door of the car and get down. When the door of the car got open about four inches, the dacoit from outside it banged the door shut and fired his gun at Dr. Herczeg at point blank range.

Continuing, he gestured as if to shoot me also. When I told him that I had already parted with money, watch and fountainpens all that I had got and begged him not to shoot me, the man still pointed the gun at me and asked me to come down. I cannot hold of the wounded Dr. Herczeg in my hands and I and driver Ko Thein Ngwe together got down from the car. When I was too slow, the dacoit beat me. When we got to the ground, the dacoit pointed the gun at me and ordered me to get up. Then at a distance I saw the dacoits ransacking and rummaging the car thoroughly.

I rushed to the Government Garden about 2 mile ~~away~~ mile and a half and asked for police and medical assistance. When Driver Ko Thein Ngwe came back with the car to Banyin with Dr. Herczeg in it, so that Dr. Herczeg was alive. Send. With three Banyin policemen, Ko Thein Ngwe and I took Dr. Herczeg's body in the car direct to Taunggyi and reported the case to the police concerned.

I know that the Secretary has given instructions to inform all the Shan States authorities concerned ~~to get police escort~~ whenever Dr. Herczeg would go out of the country. However I must say that on the fateful day of October 25, 1944, I did not inform anybody of where he would be going, nor did he ask for a police escort or security arrangements.

¹ In Burmese, a 'dacoity' is legally defined as a crime committed by five or more men. Loosely the term 'dacoit' is used to mean a bandit or robber.

1 NOV 1960

Washington Post

Austrian Economist Is Slain in Burma

Reuters

RANGOON, Burma, Oct. 31
Austrian economist Carl R.
Herczeg, connected with an
American philanthropic or-
ganization, was shot to death
by bandits Sunday, press re-
ports said today.

Herczeg, of the Asia Foun-
dation, was reported killed
about 29 miles from the Shan
State capital of Taunggyi.